



Archaeology News



- *from the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA)*

Sept. 2012

- **Indiana Archaeology Month** - September finds Indiana observing the 17th annual statewide celebration of archaeology. There has been a surge of interest in underwater archaeology in Indiana as well as in the identification, preservation, and interpretation of underwater cultural resources. As a result, the focus of this year's Indiana Archaeology Month commemorative poster and shirt designs is underwater archaeology in our state. The designs feature a number of images of artifacts, sites, and features from Indiana waterways from several counties, including Lake and Porter. Shirts may be purchased (\$6 each) in the Department of Natural Resources Customer Service Center in the Indiana Government Center South, Room W160A, Indianapolis. For mail orders, call 317/232-4200. DHPA archaeology staff will also be bringing shirts for sale, while supplies last, to events they'll be attending during Indiana Archaeology Month.

To obtain a free Indiana Archaeology Month poster, you may either visit our office (at 402 West Washington Street, Room W274, Indianapolis) or pick up a poster at an Indiana Archaeology Month event where the DHPA archaeology staff will be participating. Posters will be provided to Archaeology Month event hosts for use at their venues.

There is also a full Calendar of Events available at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3674.htm>, and we hope to see you in September. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Amy Johnson, Archaeology Outreach Coordinator, at ajohnson@dnr.IN.gov or 317/232-6982.



- **Archaeological site of the Month-** Following the underwater archaeology focus of this year's designs of the Indiana Archaeology Month commemorative products, this Archaeological site of the Month is about underwater cultural resources, and specifically one Indiana shipwreck site. The text below was kindly provided by Dr. Kira Kaufmann of Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group (CCRG).

Although Indiana is not known for shipwrecks, 2012 has brought these historic resources into focus with the 100 year anniversary of the Titanic tragedy. Lake Michigan, off of Indiana's shore, has been reported to hide as many as 80 shipwrecks and numerous nautical tragedies. One such tragedy was the sinking of the *Material Service* in 1936. On the evening of July 29, the *Material Service* barge left the Chicago River about midnight with a cargo of 2000 tons of crushed rock and headed south along Chicago's lakefront. The ship never reached its destination. In the very early hours of July 30th there was a squall with powerful waves and wind that caused the barge to take on too much water and list suddenly to port. It took but a few minutes for the barge to sink completely and settle on the bottom of Lake Michigan in about 25 feet of water taking the cargo and 15 lives with it.

The *Material Service* barge began its career in 1929 in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. It was built by Leathem D. Smith at the Smith shipyards. The vessel was leased to the Material Service Company for ten years and was named in honor of that company. Based out of Milwaukee and used primarily to transport sand and gravel on Lake Michigan, the vessel measured 239.7 feet long, 40.1 feet wide and 13.9 feet deep, and weighed 1077 gross tons or 736 net tons. At the time of its construction, the *Material Service* barge combined inventive structural and functional design elements into its system of self-unloading levers and pulleys. Because of these innovative features the *Material Service* barge was a unique 20th century motorship.

The *Material Service* barge (Archaeology site 12La641) now lies on its hull on the level sandy bottom of Lake Michigan. It is the only shipwreck in Indiana's water of Lake Michigan with substantial superstructure, where SCUBA divers can still actually swim through the hold of the ship. The remains also include deck equipment, pilot house sidewalls, and miscellaneous hardware lying immediately adjacent to the ship's mainframe. The significant features of the *Material Service* are the substantial intact mainframe; the remaining self-unloading levers, conveyors, and pulleys; the retractable A-frame and intact machine components. The *Material Service* is a popular destination for local divers and a place where avocationalists have been doing research as well for several years.

The *Material Service* was part of a larger archaeological investigation conducted by Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group (CCRG) in 2011 for the Lake Michigan Coastal program as part of an effort to relocate historic shipwrecks first surveyed in the 1980's by Indiana State Archaeologist, Gary Ellis. The 2011 investigations applied advanced modern technology, such as sidescan sonar and high definition underwater videography, to study remains and changes at the shipwreck site. The 2011 project

provided additional data and documentation to the state and the public about the site condition, including biotic life and water quality.

Beyond being a popular SCUBA dive site, the *Material Service* is important to Indiana's history because it was the first of its kind, the first self-unloading barge designed by architect Leathem D. Smith. It was integral in the transportation of cargo in the region of southern Lake Michigan which supported the economic growth of Indiana. It provided a base for the development of further innovations in Great Lakes shipping. To recognize its historical importance in a more formal way, the *Material Service* has recently been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. If listed, it will become only the second Indiana shipwreck thus far to be included in the National Register of Historic Places.

www.indianashipwrecks.org

<http://divingindiana.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.in.gov/nrc/>

- **Archeology Preservation Trust Fund**- Would you like to contribute directly to archaeology in our state? In honor of Indiana Archaeology Month, why not consider a voluntary donation to the Archeology Preservation Fund? Section 34 of Indiana Code 14-21-1 provides that the DHPA may conduct a program with this fund to assist private homeowners who have accidentally discovered an artifact, a burial object, or human remains and who need assistance to comply with an approved plan to excavate or secure the site from further disturbance. To learn more and find out how to donate, feel free to go to <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/2764.htm>.
- **Outreach to Kiwanis**- On August 3, 2012, Amy Johnson, Archaeology Outreach Coordinator, gave a presentation on Indiana archaeology and the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to an Indianapolis Kiwanis group. The members of the service group were interested in archaeology and had great questions.
- **Outreach in Parke County**- On August 11, 2012, Turkey Run State Park had its Archaeology Day. Visitor participation included prehistoric activities such as rope making, petroglyph painting, throwing a spear with an atlatl, fur identification, a mock archaeological dig, and more. DHPA archaeologist Cathy Draeger-Williams shared information regarding Indiana archaeology and was there for artifact identification. The turnout of inquisitive visitors was wonderful.
- **Marion County Outreach**- On July 18, 2012 from 1:30 – 4:30 P.M., State Archaeologist Dr. Rick Jones gave a presentation on Indiana archaeology, past cultures, and teaching kids archaeology to a group of 21 Master Naturalists educators at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park in Indianapolis.



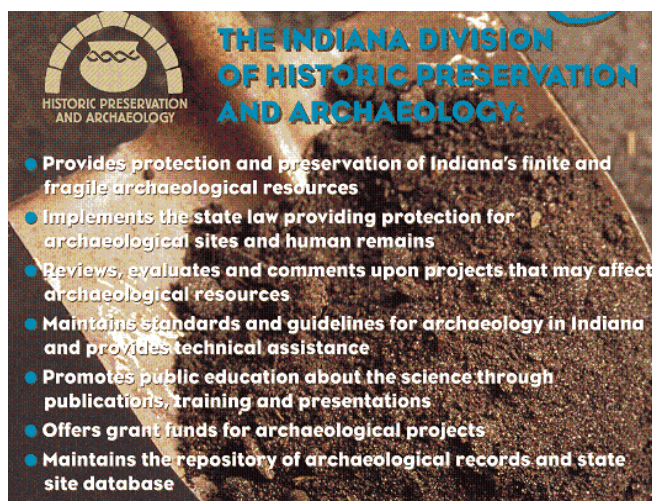


Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 402 W. Washington St., Room W274, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739. www.IN.gov/dnr/historic

Indiana Archaeology Month (September) webpage-
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/3674.htm>

Compiled and written by Amy Johnson, Senior Archaeologist and Archaeology Outreach Coordinator (September 2012). Material Service site text provided by Dr. Kira Kaufmann, Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group (CCRG). Dr. Jones and Cathy Draeger-Williams provided their text.

Mission Statement: *The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology promotes the conservation of Indiana's cultural resources through public education efforts, financial incentives including several grant and tax credit programs, and the administration of state and federally mandated legislation.*



- Provides protection and preservation of Indiana's finite and fragile archaeological resources
- Implements the state law providing protection for archaeological sites and human remains
- Reviews, evaluates and comments upon projects that may affect archaeological resources
- Maintains standards and guidelines for archaeology in Indiana and provides technical assistance
- Promotes public education about the science through publications, training and presentations
- Offers grant funds for archaeological projects
- Maintains the repository of archaeological records and state site database